

March 23, 2015

Support Statement: House Bill 228- from Llevando Fisher, President, Northern Cheyenne Tribe

American energy development has been central to our country's economic recovery job growth and improved energy security over the last several years. Sustaining this positive movement requires more access to domestic energy resources here in our own nation, The Cheyenne Nation, where unemployment and poverty runs rampant (24/7). The Northern Cheyenne Reservation is situated on the Fort Union Coal formation, moreover, the Knobloch seam where 5 billion tons of reservation coal is readily recoverable and is the same seam as the Otter Creek LLC development. This Otter Creek Mine will be the largest in the Powder River Basin. HB- 228, will help fund the numerous infrastructure project(s), the Tribe has scheduled near the proposed Otter Creek Mine. The Northern Cheyenne President envisions a community center where coal mine literature and information can be disseminated, a staging area for Police and Fire protection for people near the coal mine, Indian and non-Indian alike can utilize this building to deal with the impacts of large coal development. So I implore upon you to please restore the funding to the same level as the 2013 Biennium which was 5.8 % of the Coal Natural Resource Account. This is an important issue that needs to be addressed, for all Montanans.

Read by : Jim Atchinson, executive director SEMDC

SENATE FINANCE & CLAIMS

Exhibit No. _____

Date _____

Bill No. _____